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Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 NIC-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 NEA-10 SY-10 RSR-01 /133 W
---------- 067570
R 301131 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4078
INFO AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGUI 499

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, CT
SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENT RE ANTI- BOKASSA " PLOT"

1. SUMMARY: BOKASSA CONTINUES TO AIR PUBLICLY LATEST DEVELOPMENTS RE PURPORTED PLOT AGAINST HIM BY M' MONGO AND COMPANY AND TO TAKE MEASURES OSTENSIBLY DESIGNED TO COPE WITH IT. HIS STRONG TONE SEEMS AIMED PURPOSELY AT FRIGHTENING OFF ANY OTHER WOULD- BE PLOTTERS. HE APPEARS TO REMAIN IN FULL CONTROL AND HAS LEFT FOR VISIT TO MAURITIUS. ACTION REQUESTED: NONE.

2. BOKASSA CONTINUES TO AIR PUBLICLY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PURPORTED PLOT AGAINST HIM BY M' BONGO AND COMPANY. ON APRIL 26 HE MADE RADIO BROADCAST IN FRENCH AND SANGO CLAIMING THAT " SORCERERS" HAD BEEN UNCOVERED AMONG ARAB AND MUSLIM TRADERS AT LOCAL MILITARY CAMP SELLING FETISHES DESIGNED TO INSURE SUCCESS OF " COUP PLANNED FOR APRIL 10." HE NOTED THIS WAS APART FROM COUP PREPARATIONS WHICH FOUR FRENCH MILITARY ADVISERS AT GENERAL STAFF HEADQUARTERS WERE " MISED UP IN." HE ORDERED THAT HENCEFORTH ALL FOREIGNERS AND NON- MILITARY PERSONNEL WOULD BE BANNED FROM MILITARY AREAS. TONE
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AND CONTENT OF SANGO VERSION CONSIDERABLY STRONGER, PARTICULARLY

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AGAINST ARABS AND MUSLIMS. BROADCASE STILL BEING REPEATED.

3. IN SERIES OF NEW DECREES RE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT, BOKASSA RECONFIRMED HIMSELF IN TOP COMMAND, ABOLISHED POSITION OF VICE CHIEF OF STAFF FORMERLY HELD BY GENERAL MANDABA, AND APPARENTLY PLACED NEWLY- PROMOTED GENERAL MAGALE IN SECOND POSITION IN MILITARY HEIRARCHY. WHERE THIS LEAVES MANDABA, FORMER SECOND IN COMMAND WHO IS ONE OF THOSE BOKASSA CLAIMED M' BONGO WAS TRYING TO INFLUENCE, IS NOT CLEAR.

4. COMMENT: BOKASSA' S LATEST SPEECHES, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN SANGO ADDRESSED TO CENTRAL AFRICANS THEMSELVES, SEEM DESIGNED TO SCARE OFF ANY FURHTER MALCONTENTS AND TO KEEP THINGS UNDER CONTROL WHILE HE TRAVELS. WHETHER HE REALLY BELIEVES THE " PLOT" IS AS SERIOUS AS HE IS MAKING OUT IS UNCERTAIN, BUT IN ANY CASE BY HIS MOVES HE APPEARS TO HAVE EFFECTIVELY ELIMINATED ANY POSSIBLE THREAT TO HIM FOR THE PRESENT. HE STILL SEEMS IN FULL CONTROL, AND FACT THAT HE DEPARTED FOR MAURITIUS THIS MORING FOR PERHAPS 10- DAY TRIP INDIC- ATES HE HIMSELF BELIEVES HE HAS THINGS WELL IN HAND. ATMOSPHERE REMAINS CALM.

5. THIS IS FIRST TIME HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED FRENCH PUBLICLY AS BEING INVOLVED. IN FRENCH VERSION HE NOTED IT ONLY IN PASSING AND WAS REFERRING TO FOUR ADVISERS ATTACHED TO GENERAL STAFF WHO WERE ASKED TO LEAVE AND DEPARTED CAR APRIL 15. HE EVIDENTLY DISCUSSED FRENCH " TECHNICIANS" A LITTLE MORE IN SANGO VERSION, BUT IN NEITHER CASE DID HE MAKE ANY FURTHER MENTION OF " COLONIALISTS AND IMPERIALISTS" IN CONNCETNION WITH PLOT.
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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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TAGS: PINS, CT
To: AF
FORT LAMY
KINSHASA
LIBREVILLE
PARIS
SECSTATE WASHDC
YAOUNDE

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